

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/020,991

Examiner

Sandra M. Nolan

Applicant(s)

PAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 04 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8-18-04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

S. M. Nolan - Rayford
SANDRA M. NOLAN - RAYFORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is a statement of reasons for allowing claims 1-3 and 5-20:
2. As recited in the amendment submitted on 04 November 2004 ("the last amendment") in response to the final action dated 29 October 2004, the base claims—i.e., claims 1, 11 and 13—cover the following:

Claim 1 covers an apparatus comprising:

- a) a substrate with a deposition region and an optional uncoated region, with the deposition region including a level intermediate region between first and second end regions, the first end region including a first raised surface portion extending above the level region circumferentially around the first end region, wherein the first raised portion extends above the level region by 0.5 to 1,000 micrometers; and
- b) a dip coated layer over the entire deposition region, including the raised surface portion.

Claim 11 covers an apparatus comprising:

- a) a substrate with a deposition region and an optional uncoated region, with the deposition region including a level intermediate region between first and second end regions, the first end region including a plurality of raised surface portions, each of which extends above the level intermediate region and partially around the first end region, wherein the plurality of portions, when viewed as a substrate end view, collectively extend circumferentially around the first end region continuously; and
- b) a dip coated layer over the entire deposition region, including the plurality of raised portions.

Claim 13 covers a coating method comprising:

1) providing a substrate including a deposition region and an optional uncoated region, with the deposition region including a level intermediate region between first and second end regions, the first end region including a first raised surface portion extending above the level region circumferentially around the first end region; and

2) dip coating a layer of coating solution over the entire deposition region, including over the raised surface portion.

3. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest apparatuses or processes having all of the features of claims 1, 11 or 13, as summarized above.

4. The last amendment overcame the 35 USC 103 rejection based on CH-672564A's abstract and Herbert (US 5,683,742).

5. The disclosures of the pregrant publications listed on the 18 August 2004 citation sheet (copy enclosed) have been considered.

6. Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are patentable over these disclosures because the coating operation covered by this case is directed to a one-step coating for the entire apparatus; and the apparatus claimed here has raised end regions, not recessed ones.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be addressed to Sandra M. Nolan, at telephone number 571/272-1495. She can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, her supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at 571/272-1498.

The fax number for patent application documents is 703/872-9306.

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10020991(20041118)

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